

THE BANNER.

"LIBERTY AND MY NATIVE SOIL."

CHARLES H. ALLEN, Editor.



Abbeville C. H., S. C.:

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 1846.

Frequent complaint has been made to us of late by subscribers who receive their papers at Lebanon P. O., that they do not get them in due time, and often not at all. The Post Master will be good enough to see to this matter; for the fault must lie at his door, and not with us. The packages are regularly sent from this office, and this we can prove.

We would direct the attention of the young men of our District, who desire to volunteer for the Mexican war, to the advertisement of Capt. MARSHALL, found in another column. He has called a meeting of his Company on Saturday 13th inst., to organize and elect officers; and as a few names are wanting yet to make out the number required, a chance is offered to any person who may wish to join his ranks.

We are requested also to say to those whose names are down upon the lists sent from this place to the country, that they are desired to attend here on Saturday next, for the purpose of organizing. The Light Infantry parade also Saturday next, it being their regular muster day.

Good.—One of those characters who go about through the country with whiskey carts, corrupting our black population was served after the following fashion last Saturday night, at Cokesbury. He drove up his cart, with its ill-fated barrel near the village; late Saturday evening, expecting from the slander which he had previously circulated upon the place, particularly the students there, to "sell out," by morning. And he was sold out with a vengeance. The next morning he was found tied hand and foot, in an erect posture to a tree in a conspicuous part of the village! and his barrel as might have been expected, was found turned up-side-down its head knocked out, and of course its precious contents "spilt upon the ground." The account which he himself gives of it is, that about midnight some six or eight persons came upon him, made him bestride a rail, and in that comfortable position, rode him a time or two up and down the streets, and then tied him as above stated.

It appears that this fellow had been boasting that Cokesbury was an excellent place to sell liquor at, that he could easily "sell out," between Saturday night and Monday morning to the students at any time &c. Now though we disapprove of any man or set of men taking the law into their own hands to take satisfaction, yet there is much of excuse to be found in this transaction, for we know of no community more orderly, pious, and exemplary than that of Cokesbury; and the Institution at that place particularly, is noted for its morality and good behaviour. We maintain therefore, that they were justifiable in thus punishing this base calumniator.

We have received nothing later from the army by our late papers, and we conclude, therefore, that nothing of importance has transpired there, or news would have reached us by this time. It was Gen. TAYLOR's intention to attack Matamoras and plant the stars and stripes upon the battlements of that town; if such an attack has been made, judging from the past, that act has been done. We shall certainly know by the next mail what our gallant sons are doing. Volunteers are still crowding to New Orleans; and every steamer leaving that place for Point Isabel, is filled

with men prepared and eager to battle for their country. It is hardly probable that the Mexicans will seek another fight with our army, but will retire to the interior of the country. From their recent losses of men, arms and ammunition, and one of their ablest generals, who is now a prisoner in New Orleans, they must be much discouraged, and we should not be surprised to hear of disorganization and desertion in their ranks.

We learn by the late Washington news that Gen. TAYLOR has been promoted to the rank of brevet Major General, for his gallantry in the late battles and Capt. WALKER, the Texan Ranger, Captain in the Regiment of mounted Riflemen.

The Pirate, BARR, has been pardoned by the President; making the third time he has thus escaped.

We are indebted to the Hon. A. BURT for public document.

EDITOR'S TABLE.

Southern and Western Literary Messenger and Review: B. B. MINOR, Editor, Richmond, Va.—Terms, \$5.00 per annum, in advance.

We have received the May No. of this able Magazine, in which we find much to interest and instruct the reader. The *Messenger* ranks now among the first periodicals of this country, and deservedly so; for the articles which appear in it are characterized by ability and a style chaste and classical. It is acquiring a widespread popularity and should be in the hands of every lover of literature.

Heriot's Monthly Magazine: EDWIN HERIOT, Editor: Charleston S. C.—Price, \$1.50 per annum.

The March and April Nos. of this interesting magazine are before us. This publication being a Southern work should be patronized by the South, and we would be glad to see it supersede those of a similar character of the north. It is a very neat publication, and its contributors among the ablest in our State. In the Nos. before us, are two fine engravings, "Jas. De Vaux," the artist, and "Beauty and Innocence."

(FOR THE BANNER.)

The Penitentiary and the Pardoning Power.

A strong argument in favor of Penitentiaries is the fact, that they are practically approved by some of the States, and that our system so far, has, in a great measure, failed to answer its end, is shewn by the frequency and impunity with which crime and misdemeanors are perpetrated. It requires no argument to prove, that the confinement of a prison is no terror to those who, through laziness and its concomitant evils, are abandoned to "the evil practice of bartering with negroes;" whereas a system, which compels, under the lash, the convict to labor, together with the infliction of solitary confinement, in the same proportion as it thus presents labor under the most forbidding aspect, to a repugnance to which may be attributed most of those low and yet undermining crimes and misdemeanors, must, it would seem, tend greatly to deter from their perpetration. That such a system would be a saving to the State, also, cannot be denied. And if these positions be true, of course, a Penitentiary is preferable to our present system of punishment.

Whilst upon this subject, we will take this occasion to express our opinion upon a practice which entirely thwarts the good which would be accomplished by the "certainty of punishment," and thus renders still more inefficient our already too inefficient system. We allude to the exercise of the *Pardoning Power*, by the Governor. That a man should be released from the consequences of a crime or an offence of which he has been legally convicted, simply because the Executive is presented with a petition having a great many signers to it, is certainly a very good way to get into the greces of the convict and his friends, but is surely a very poor proof of a faithful administration of the law. We are very far, however, from charging the present, or any of our Ex-Governors, with exercising this high power under the influence of such a motive, however much their conduct in this respect, in some instances, is to be regretted, in pardoning men, in whose conviction the State was put to no little expense and

trouble, and who richly deserved even more punishment than the paltry amount which the law designed should be imposed upon them. We hold, that no man should be released from the consequences of an act which he has been legally convicted, *whatever the nature, or however severe the punishment*, except in the opinion of the Judge and Jury before whom he was tried, he be reasonably and justly entitled to such exemption.

What says the press of South Carolina, upon this subject.

JUSTICE.

(FOR THE BANNER.)

Mr. Editor.—In your paper of the 29th April, I find a communication from "The Country," addressed to the friends of Temperance &c. &c., at the village. I was glad to see that "The Country," was interested in our whereabouts, and hope that the author of the call, intends to exert more fully his fine talents, and bring all his energies into the field this year.

True, we have not held a meeting for several months, but "the village society is not dead," it only sleepeth. There are many reasons to be advanced in extenuation, if not in entire justification of our course. Some are candidates for office, and if we were too active, we might be ostracised. Others are already in office, and could not think of neglecting their duties to visit friends in the country. Some have been a little luke warm in the cause of Temperance, others are frozen up, but as the warm weather has commenced a thaw, may be expected, and some think it unnecessary to hold temperance meetings as the residents may not go out to hear. The President of the "village society" is one of the most noble hearted sons of temperance and is at his post. No doubt "the country" will soon hear from the "village society" as there are signs of awakening to be seen.

In answer to "The Country's" enquiries, I would say that LESLY's sword, has become rusty, and dull, from last year's service, but call at the Ordinary's Office any day, (Sundays excepted) before the 6th of June, and you will find him during his leisure hours rubbing up and sharpening that same old sword, with which he will do good service this Summer. JONES is, and will be engaged until after the second Monday in June, with Guardians, and Wards, trying to keep them in good humor with each other, (a difficult task,) after that time he will take down his helmet, "cry havoc and let loose the dogs of war." Thomson is ready. As to "yourself Mr. Editor," you have been busy in settling the Oregon question, and although upon that subject you are regarded as one of the 49 men, upon the subject of temperance, we hold you to 54 40. "Dr. ISAAC" has been engaged in spreading blisters, making pills, and in attending temperance meetings; we know that he has attended two this year. My particular friend "McGOWEN," although a thorough going temperance man, cannot be brought up to the speaking point; we are sorry for this, for he has talents of a high order, and might wield a tremendous influence upon this subject. SPIERIN, FAIR, and LEE, all "all right," and ready to "fall into line." I cannot name all here who are warmly interested in this good cause.

We at the Village, are equally interested in the whereabouts of our country friends. Can "The Country" inform us where to find our friends at Wilmington, Hopewell, Cokesbury, and Due West? "The Major," reports all well at Republican. Where are the PRESSLYS, HEMPHILLS, DAVISES, F. A. CONNOR, S. L. HELLAR, A. A. ROBERTS, and "last not least," M. J. WILLIAMS? Is the Major in his tent with his armour off? There are many others in the country who are able to do efficient work—where are they?

We at the Village propose to report more additions to the society on the second Monday in July, then "The Country," what say you Gentlemen?

PHILO TEMPERANCE.

May 6th, 1846.

The N. York Express of Saturday afternoon says—We learn that a highly respectable foreign merchant, residing in this city, and having several vessels lying in Vera Cruz, has just returned from Washington, from an unsuccessful application to our Government, for a permission for these vessels to load on American account, to come from Vera Cruz to this city. This request has been peremptorily refused, from which it may be inferred that a most rigid blockade has been ordered, and is to be maintained.

PAREDES, the President of Mexico.—Gen. Thompson, in his work recently published, "The Recollections of Mexico," says that General Paredes is a man of talents and acquirements in his profession, and is spoken of as a gentleman and a patriot. Paredes, Valencia and Canalizo were the three Generals in the most important commands under Bustamante. "Paredes, Valencia went over to Santa Anna, and thereby consummated the overthrow of Bustamante's government. Canalizo adhered with a noble fidelity to the fortunes of his chief, and after Bustamante was vanquished, held out for a long time at the head of only three hundred men, and by his remarkable gallantry obtained the sobriquet of the 'Lion of Mexico.' As soon as Santa Anna was firmly seated in power, he showered favors of all sorts upon Canalizo; amongst other things, appointed him President ad-interim during his own absence from Mexico. He very soon quarrelled with Valencia and Paredes. The former gave up his command, and the latter was arrested and imprisoned in the little town of Tula, thirty miles from Mexico. Paredes resides in the city of Guadalajara, where he is greatly beloved and respected. The department of Guadalajara is in every respect the finest in Mexico, with more intelligence, and of course, virtue, better farms, a better population, and sounder political principles than any other. Gen. T. knew, when he left Mexico, that Paredes was only waiting for the proper moment to strike, and that his friends in Guadalajara were perfectly organized, held regularly secret meetings, and were also only waiting for the moment of advantageous opportunity. This, unfortunately for himself, Santa Anna gave them. Reposing in the false security which his flatterers had made him believe that he enjoyed, and no longer apprehending any danger from Paredes, he appointed him governor of Sonora, a department upon the Pacific Ocean. On his way to his department, Paredes passed through Guadalajara, and his arrival there was the signal for the pronunciamento which resulted in the defeat and overthrow of Santa Anna."—N. Y. Sun.

THE WAR ON THE RIO GRANDE.—We publish in another part of this morning's *American* the official account of the late conflict on the Rio Grande which resulted so triumphantly and gloriously to the American arms. It will be seen that the official statement confirms substantially the accounts previously received.

In all points of view these victories are brilliant. With choice of position, and superior numbers the enemy awaited the approach of our little army as of a doomed band marching to destruction. So confident were they of victory that preparations had been made in advance to celebrate it, and instructions were given for conveying General Taylor as a prisoner to the city of Mexico. But the Mexicans were soon to learn some new lessons respecting the metal of the men they had to deal with. Our brave fellows moved right on dashing upon the enemy with a gallantry and heroism which make a battle and victory synonymous terms. The second day's conflict, more fiercely contested, was still more decisive in its results. May's bold charge upon the Mexican battery, carrying it with his dragoons, was no common exploit. The whole action was, indeed, a series of brilliant exploits, and throughout the efficiency of the American arms was strikingly displayed. The Mexicans themselves fought well; their best troops, doubtless, were in the field.

Nothing could better illustrate the value of our system of military instruction than these victories on the Rio Grande. The enemy were astonished at the terrible destruction caused by our artillery. The brave and accomplished Ringgold, whose death the country deplores, yet whose fall could not have been more glorious, had for years devoted himself with the enthusiasm of a soldier having his heart in his work, to the training and instruction of his men in the use of their field pieces; and he had brought that arm of the service into a degree of efficiency which was the combined result of science, industry and courage. The admirable description of the infantry moving on the enemy with the bayonet, of the cavalry charging upon his batteries of the heavy artillery sweeping the flanks—was all exemplified, and reflected the highest credit upon the skill and gallantry of officers and men. Let us hear no more cavillings at the noble Institution at West Point which gives annually to the country its rich contributions of military knowledge, discipline and valor all to be of such inestimable worth in the hour of danger.

We cannot let pass this occasion without adverting to the duty of the Repub-

lic to make known, by some suitable token, its high sense of the merits of our brave defenders on the Rio Grande. With the national name and honor in their keeping they have exalted both; they have added a new page to annals of our military renown. England gives to her heroes the honors of knighthood and the peerage, pensions during life, and monuments in Westminster Abbey to consecrate their memories. With a gratitude less ostentatious but not less sincere we can proffer to our victorious warriors some substantial assurances that their deeds are appreciated and their names cherished. Let him who has done well in a subordinate sphere be promoted to a higher; the privilege of ampler and wider room to serve his country is dear to the heart of the military man. We cannot doubt but the Government will testify its sense of the services of the victors on the Rio Grande by the promotion of all who distinguished themselves in the recent battles on that river.—Balt. American.

MAJOR RINGGOLD.—The death of this accomplished officer is a heavy loss to the country. He had been entrusted with the revision of a system of tactics for our army, and devoted much time and study to improving upon the English and French systems. His corps was as fine as any service could boast. He leaves unfinished, we think, a work which he was preparing on the utility and practicability of the flying artillery arm in our service. Major R's. constitution was much impaired by his long campaigns in Florida, but passionately attached to the profession of arms he still remained in the army and died a martyr to his country.

His death has stricken thousands of hearts that gush under the blow, with feelings which no ordinary public calamity could have excited. He was generally known and appreciated in this city as the Bayard of the age—the star of the war; and his career was watched with anxious eyes and hearts. That it would be glorious no one doubted; but who thought that an orb so bright would sink so early? The soul of chivalry and honor, accomplished as a soldier, lofty as a patriot, beloved as a man, it demands an agonizing to reconcile us to such a sacrifice. And yet it is a noble one. In the flash of his fame he has died as he lived—for his country. The offering was doubtless a glad one. He desired no brighter fate than such a death; he could leave no richer heritage than such an example. While we feel as if destiny had robbed the future of the fame which such a nature must have won; we dare not repine that his career has been closed, in its morning, with this sunburst of glory. His memory will be gratefully cherished so long as honor has a votary, freedom a hero, or his country a name.

THE DEAD AND WOUNDED OFFICERS.—In looking over "slips" containing a list of the officers killed, we thought it might be well to place against their names the names of the States in which each was born, which we do by referring to the Army List:

Brevet Major Samuel Ringgold was a native of Maryland. He died on the 11th inst. from wounds received on the 8th.

Major Jacob Brown, of the 7th Infantry, was a native of Massachusetts.

Lieutenant Zebulon M. P. Inges, of the 2nd Regiment of Dragoons, is a native of Alabama. He bears a military name, as we suppose it is Zebulon Montgomery Pike Inges.

Richard E. Cochrane, 1st Lieutenant in the 4th Regiment of Infantry, was a native of Delaware.

Theodore L. Chadbourne, 2nd Lieutenant in the 8th Regiment of Regiment, was a native of Maine, probably of Portland.

The wounded officers were as follows:—

Lieutenant Col. McIntosh, 5th Infantry, Georgia.

Lieut. Col. Payne, 4th Artillery, Virginia.

Capt. Page, 4th Infantry, Maine.

Capt. Hooe, 6th Infantry, Virginia.

Capt. Montgomery, 8th Infantry, New Jersey.

Lieut. Roland A. Luther, 2nd Artillery, Pennsylvania.

1st Lieut. Collinson R. Gates, 8th Regiment Infantry, New York.

2nd Lieut. John G. Burbank, Massachusetts.

Lieutenants Selden, McClure, and Jordan.—*Philad. U. S. Gazette.*

REQUISITION UPON GEORGIA.—We understand, says the *Augusta Constitutionalist*, that a requisition has been made upon the Governor of Georgia for 800 men for the Mexican war. Our gallant State will doubtless furnish this small quota by volunteers.